

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B

1. A process for forming images comprising the steps of: conducting recording on a recording medium provided with an image-receiving layer; and

5 laminating a thermoplastic film onto said image-receiving layer to smooth the surface of said thermoplastic film by heating and pressurizing means and to bond the back side of said thermoplastic film onto said image-receiving layer.

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2. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the surface glossiness of said heating and pressurizing means is equal or greater than 10% at an incident angle of 20°.

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3. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said surface glossiness is equal or greater than 70% at an incident angle of 75°.

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4. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein either the glass transition point of said thermoplastic film is lower than the glass transition point of a binder resin in said image-receiving layer or the film-forming temperature of said thermoplastic film is lower than the film-forming temperature of a binder resin in said image-receiving layer.

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5. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film is a laminate of two or more thermoplastic polymer layers.

5 6. An apparatus for forming images comprising:
an ink-jet head for conducting recording on a recording medium; a laminate section for laminating a thermoplastic polymer onto a recording medium on which recording has been conducted, and

10 heating and pressurizing means for smoothing said thermoplastic film by heating and pressurizing and for bonding the back side of said thermoplastic film onto said image-receiving layer.

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